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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : The Director

FROM : Mr. D. M. Ladd

SUBJECT: FLYING DISCS

DATE: August 14, 1947

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Beahm	
Miss Gandy	

In connection with your request to be advised as to the facts concerning newspaper reports of flying discs in the Portland area and the reported conference of army officials in Portland concerning flying discs, the Portland Office has advised that Leaveritt G. Richards, aviation editor of the "Oregonian," has stated that Captain William L. Davidson and Lieutenant Frank M. Brown of the Fourth AAF Headquarters, San Francisco, were in Portland on July 27, 1947. While in Portland they interviewed Dick Rankin, an experienced pilot, who had reported that he observed, on June 11, a formation of ten flying discs over Bakersfield, California. Richards added that Davidson and Brown had also interviewed the following four experienced pilots who were among the first to report seeing discs, Kenneth Arnold, businessman from Boise, Idaho; Captain E. J. Smith, a co-pilot; Ralph Stevens, United Airlines and Dave Johnson, aviation editor, Idaho "Statesman." In order to determine the purpose of these interviews Richards contacted Major General Twining of Wright Field, Ohio, and from him gained the impression that the AAF instituted this investigation to wash out the disc reports since they are definitely not of AAF origin.

On Friday, August 1, the plane in which AAF investigators, Captain Davidson and Lieutenant Brown, were flying, crashed at Kelso, Washington and both were killed. The wreckage was screened by AAF Intelligence from McChord Field. The "Tacoma News Tribune" and through them the United Press put out a story that the plane was carrying parts of a disc which had struck a boat owned by Harold Dahl and Fred Chrisman. It has also been inferred that this plane was sabotaged to prevent these disc parts from being examined.

STATUS

Investigation by the Bureau has reflected that this plane was definitely not carrying parts of a disc and there appears to be no substantiation of a sabotage charge.

For your further information there is attached a blind memorandum setting forth in more detail the results of the investigation surrounding the above plane crash. No further inquiry is being made in this matter.

ACTION

Air Force Intelligence has been advised of the results of our investigation.

RGF:mjp

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EX-81

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FLYING DISCS

The "Tacoma News Tribune" and through them the United Press put out a story that an army plane which was allegedly carrying parts of a disc which had struck a boat owned by Harold Dahl and Fred Chrisman had crashed on August 1, 1947, killing two Air Force Intelligence officers who were interviewing persons who were alleged to have seen flying discs.

Harold A. Dahl and Fred Chrisman, when interviewed by Bureau Agents, advised in a signed statement on August 7, 1947, that in the early part of June, 1947, they picked up some strange rock formations from a gravel pit on Mauri Island, Washington. They sent a cigar box of these formations to one Ray Palmer, editor of the Venture magazine in Evanston, Illinois and also editor of the Fantasy magazine in Chicago, Illinois. According to them they requested Palmer to make only a chemical analysis of the rock formations. Palmer then wrote asking for additional samples stating he had been unable to analyze the material. Dahl and Chrisman remarked that a few days after the flying disc stories appeared during the latter part of June, Palmer contacted them by telephone saying he would pay for an exclusive story if the materials they had sent him were fragments of a flying disc. Dahl said he wrote Palmer a letter in which he represented the material as being a part of a flying disc, and both Dahl and Chrisman admitted that this statement was entirely false.

Dahl and Chrisman then received a call from one Kenneth Arnold of Boise, Idaho who requested them to meet him at the Winthrop Hotel in Tacoma on July 31, 1947. According to them Arnold called in army intelligence officers from Hamilton Field, California and one Captain Emil H. Smith of United Airlines of Seattle, Washington to attend this meeting. Dahl and Chrisman maintained they told the intelligence officers Captain Davidson, Lieutenant Brown, Kenneth Arnold and Emil H. Smith exactly how they got the rock formations and that they had no connection with any flying discs. Dahl and Chrisman stated that they then furnished some of the rock formation to the intelligence officers as samples.

Captain Davidson and Lieutenant Brown left Tacoma, Washington in a B-25 to return to Hamilton Field, California about 2:30 A.M. August 1, 1947, and were killed when their plane crashed at Kelso, Washington, after the left engine burned out an exhaust stack which in turn caught the left wing on fire which caused it to break off. The crew chief and each officer parachuted to safety.

Ernie Vogel, an Associated Press wireman at Tacoma advised that two or three days after the flying disc story started he contacted Dahl to check the story

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ENCLOSURE

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that the Seattle Post-Intelligencer had received from the Fire Chief at Harbor, Washington, to the effect that Dahl had some flying disc fragments. At this time Dahl admitted to Vogel that the entire story was false.

Relative to Arnold, Dahl and Chrisman stated that he was paid by Ray Palmer of the Fantasy magazine and possibly the "Boise Statesman" to come to Tacoma and obtain a story from them regarding the flying disc fragments.

On July 31 and August 1, a total of five anonymous calls were received by a Tacoma Times reporter and the United Press Wireman at Tacoma giving information regarding the meeting at the Winthrop Hotel over the disc fragments and stating that the B-25 had been shot down or sabotaged which killed Captain Davidson and Lieutenant Brown, inferring that this was done because the intelligence officers were carrying disc fragments in their plane.

Dahl and Chrisman stated that these calls could only have come from themselves, Arnold or Smith, who, they stated, had a friend on the Chicago Times and was possibly selling the story to the Chicago Times through this friend. Dahl and Chrisman denied making these calls.

Smith, upon interview, stated that reporter Lantz of the Tacoma Times and Morello of the United Press office in Tacoma had informed him that Arnold had several anonymous calls and from the accuracy of the information transmitted Smith believes they were made by either Dahl or Chrisman.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

407 U. S. Court House
Seattle 4, Washington
August 18, 1947

R.H. [unclear]

DIRECTOR, FBI

RE: ⁶ FLYING DISCS SIGHTED BY FRED
CRISMAN and HAROLD A. DAHL;
TACOMA, WASHINGTON
SM - X

Dear Sir:

The following, in general, are the facts regarding the flying disc story that started by FRED CRISMAN and HAROLD A. DAHL which subsequently resulted in news stories by the Tacoma Times, the Boise Statesman and the Chicago Times that a B-25 carrying Army Intelligence officers was shot down or sabotaged over Kelso, Washington on August 1, 1947 because it was carrying some flying disc fragments.

ENC. ATTACHED
The original story, as related by FRED CRISMAN and HAROLD DAHL, was to the effect that DAHL, while patrolling in his boat near Maury Island, Washington, sighted six flying discs, one of which fluttered to the earth and disintegrated, showering his boat with fragments which caused some damage to the boat and killed his dog. HAROLD DAHL wrote a letter to RAY A. PALMER of Ziff-Davis Company which publishes fantastic adventure magazines in Chicago, sending him fragments of the flying disk and relating the above story. RAY PALMER requested Trans-Radio News in Chicago to verify the story as related by HAROLD DAHL and FRED CRISMAN, telegraphed RAY PALMER confirming DAHL's story. RAY PALMER then engaged KENNETH ARNOLD, Boise, Idaho, who was the first to report sighting the flying disc and whom RAY PALMER had previously made a contract for a story regarding the flying disc, to come to Tacoma and check the story as related by FRED CRISMAN and HAROLD DAHL.

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KENNETH ARNOLD came to Tacoma, Washington July 30, 1947 and arranged for a meeting the following day, July 31, with FRED CRISMAN and HAROLD DAHL in his room 502, Winthrop Hotel, Tacoma, Washington. KENNETH ARNOLD also called to attend the meeting Captain EMIL J. SMITH, United Airlines Pilot who had also reported seeing flying disc fragments, and Army Intelligence to attend

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this meeting. KENNETH ARNOLD, Captain EMIL J. SMITH, FRED CRISMAN, HAROLD DAHL, Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN of Army A-2 Intelligence from Hamilton Field, California, all met in ARNOLD's room at various times during the afternoon and evening of July 31, 1947 and discussed the flying disc story as related by CRISMAN and DAHL. The Army Intelligence Officers, Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN, left about 2:00 A. M. the morning of August 1, 1947 to return to Hamilton Field, California for Air Force Day in a B-25 and were carrying some of the reported disc fragments. The left engine on the B-25 burned an exhaust stack which in turn caught the left wing afire, the wing subsequently breaking off and tearing off the tail. The B-25 crashed, killing Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN. However, the Crew Chief and a hitch-hiker parachuted to safety. Intelligence Officers at McChord Field, Washington advised there was no indication of any sabotage. The plane crashed at Kelso, Washington approximately 2:50 A. M. August 1, 1947.

Five anonymous calls were received by a reporter, Tacoma Times, and the United Press Wireman, Tacoma, between 11:30 A. M., July 31, 1947 and 5:30 P. M., August 2, 1947. The first call was to a Tacoma Times reporter approximately 11:30 A. M., July 31, in which the caller stated that there was a meeting taking place at that time in room 502 of the Winthrop Hotel concerning the disc fragments found on Maury Island. The second call was received between 11:00 A. M. and 12:00 noon, August 1, 1947 by the Tacoma Times reporter in which the caller advised that at that moment a big meeting was taking place in ARNOLD's room number 502, Winthrop Hotel; that the B-25 which crashed was carrying disc fragments and that McChord Field officials had stated it was shot down or sabotaged. The third call was received Friday, August 1, 1947 at 5:30 P. M. by the United Press Wireman, Tacoma, in which the caller stated that the B-25 which crashed at Kelso, Washington was carrying flying disc fragments and that the dead officers were Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN, A-2 Intelligence Officers at Hamilton Field, California. This call was prior to the release of the dead officers' names by Army authorities and the caller indicated that when the names were released, it would verify the information he was furnishing was correct. The fourth phone call was received at approximately 6:45 P. M., Friday, August 1 by the United Press Wireman in which call the caller stated the B-25 was definitely shot down and that if he contacted Army Intelligence officers, they would not deny it. The fifth phone call was received by the United Press Wireman, Tacoma, at 5:30 P. M. August 2, 1947 at which time the caller stated the B-25 was shot down from the air with a 20 m.m. cannon; that the Marine plane found recently on Mt. Rainier had also been shot down and that Captain SMITH would be taken to Wright Field Tuesday morning. When the Army authorities released the names of the dead Intelligence officers which verified the information as given by the anonymous caller, the Tacoma Times printed this story on August 2, 1947 and carried several articles thereafter inferring that the B-25 had been shot down or sabotaged because of the fact that it was carrying disc fragments. DAHL and CRISMAN have admitted that the material which they sent to RAY PALMER had no connection with any flying discs and have given a signed statement to that effect which are being

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forwarded herein. DAHL and CRISMAN deny, however, that they actually started the flying disc story and their actual part in the story. United Airlines pilot, EMIL J. SMITH, states that DAHL and CRISMAN on July 31, 1947, both related their original flying disc fragment story. Information gathered would indicate that the anonymous phone calls were possibly made by FRED CRISMAN in order to build up the flying disc story to the point where they could make a profitable sale of the story to RAY PALMER, Chicago, Illinois. No facts have been developed which would definitely prove that CRISMAN made these calls. However, from all facts and information gathered, it appears he is probably the most likely to have made the anonymous calls. The detailed interviews of the persons contacted in regard to this flying disc story are being set out below.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent DAVID A. MacCULLOCH at Tacoma, Washington on August 6, 7, 1947:

ERNIE VOGEL, Associated Press Wireman, Tacoma, Washington, advised that in the early part of June, 1947 he was requested by the Seattle Post-Intelligencer to check on a story which he was informed had been obtained from the Fire Chief at Harper, Washington. The story was supposed to have originated with FRED CRISMAN. Mr. VOGEL stated that the story was to the effect that DAHL, while patrolling in his boat near Maury Island, saw five or six flying discs, one of which fluttered toward the ground and finally disintegrated. Fragments of the disc were reported to have showered down on the boat of HAROLD DAHL, causing some damage and killing his dog. Mr. VOGEL stated that he went to the home of HAROLD DAHL on 3903 North Cove, Tacoma, Washington to check with him on this flying disc story. He stated that as best he could recall, this was just a few days after the first flying disc stories had appeared in the paper and was on a Sunday evening. He believed it was the early part of June. He stated that DAHL took him in the kitchen and proceeded to talk about this flying disc story in low muffled tones. He stated that DAHL acted rather suspicious and that shortly his wife came into the kitchen and was in a considerable rage, telling DAHL to admit that the entire story was a plain fantasy which he had dreamed up. He stated that after his wife told DAHL to admit the entire story was false, that DAHL then admitted that there was nothing whatever to the story and it was an entire hoax. VOGEL stated that in view of the enraged condition of DAHL's wife, he immediately left and reported to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer that the entire story was a hoax and that they should not print it in any way. He further stated that he advised the Seattle Post-Intelligencer that DAHL was a mental case and that nothing which he had reported should be carried as far as a news story. Mr. VOGEL stated that since that time he had received repeated requests from the Boise Statesman requesting information as to the flying disc stories reportedly originating with FRED CRISMAN and HAROLD DAHL. VOGEL stated that he had never, in his experience, had such pressure brought upon him to release a news story and that he repeatedly advised the Boise Statesman that the story of seeing the flying discs by DAHL and CRISMAN was a complete fabri-

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cation and should be in no way, carried as a news story and refused to furnish any information regarding these reports. He further stated that he advised the Boise Statesman shortly before, or at the time KENNETH ARNOLD left Boise to come to Tacoma to check on the flying disc stories with DAHL and CRISMAN, that ARNOLD should not come as the entire story was a hoax.

The following information was obtained from PAUL LANTZ, 4513 South 7th, Tacoma, Washington, Proctor 8416, a reporter for the Tacoma Times:

It was the Tacoma Times paper which first issued a story on August 2 and subsequent stories intimating that the B-25 which crashed at Kelso, Washington on the early morning of August 1, had been sabotaged or shot down because of the fact that it carried flying disc fragments. LANTZ stated that on Thursday, July 31, at approximately 11:30 A. M. he received an anonymous phone call in which the caller stated that KENNETH ARNOLD and Army Intelligence officers were meeting in room 502 of the Winthrop Hotel to check on the flying disc story from which fragments were obtained on Maury Island. LANTZ stated he turned around to speak to his editor and when he picked up the phone again the line was dead. He stated that the caller asked for BURT McMURTIE, a reporter on the Tacoma Times who was out at the time of the call. He stated that BURT McMURTIE called ARNOLD at room 502 in the Winthrop Hotel and was advised by ARNOLD that he could furnish no information as he was there on a Government mission. LANTZ stated that on Friday, August 1, between 11:00 A. M. and noon, he received another phone call for BURT McMURTIE in which the anonymous caller stated that he might have some information for him. LANTZ asked the caller if he was not the same party that had called the previous date and he said yes. The caller then related that at that moment there was a big meeting in progress in ARNOLD's room, 502, in the Winthrop Hotel; that the B-25 which crashed that morning in Kelso was carrying flying disc fragments from California and that McChord Field officials had stated the plane was sabotaged or shot down. The caller then hung up after making some statement to the effect that he was a switchboard operator. LANTZ stated that he went to the Winthrop Hotel on Friday about noon and found that there was no male operator on duty. He stated he then went to room 502 and ARNOLD answered the door and that Captain EMIL J. SMITH, United Airlines pilot, was on the phone. LANTZ stated that he heard SMITH make a statement to the effect that the information must be very strictly confidential. He stated that there were one or two others in the room besides SMITH and ARNOLD, but that he could not identify them. He stated that ARNOLD told him he could make no statement and that he had attempted to check the story with various people on Maury Island with negative results. He stated that about 3:30 P. M., Friday, he wrote a story regarding the mysterious informant and called ARNOLD at his hotel room, stating that he had written this story and that ARNOLD had better check it. He stated that he talked to TED MORRELLO, the United Press Wireman, Tacoma, who advised that the story sounded fantastic. LANTZ stated that about 5:30 P. M., Friday, August 1, an anonymous caller called TED MORRELLO, the

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United Press Wireman, stating that Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN were the Intelligence officers that were killed in the crash of the B-25 and that civilians and the sheriff had been kept away from the wreckage with the Army guarding it. He stated the anonymous caller then said that the names had not been released yet by the Army and that this would verify his statements. PAUL LANTZ stated that the following morning, Saturday, August 2, the Army verified that the officers killed were Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN and two days later verified that they were Army Intelligence officers. LANTZ stated that the anonymous caller again later contacted TED MORRELLO, calling him by that name, and at this time stated he did not call the Tacoma News Tribune or the Associated Press and denied calling PAUL LANTZ or BURT McMURTIE. In this call the anonymous caller stated that, "Don't think I'm doing this for you." He then asked if the story had been put on the wire and when MORRELLO said yes, the caller stated, "We want this to get back to New Jersey." The caller further stated that the B-25 was shot down by a 20 m.m. cannon and that the marine plane which was recently found wrecked on the side of Mt. Rainier, having been missing for several months, had also been shot down. The caller stated to MORRELLO that he should get in touch with a flyer named MORGAN with United Airlines who, he stated, was with Captain SMITH when they were shot at over Montana. The caller then stated, "I'll see you Tuesday. I'm going to San Francisco." LANTZ stated that he had checked with Captain EMIL SMITH of United Airlines who denied knowing any pilot by the name of MORGAN; denied ever having flown over Montana. LANTZ stated that MORRELLO received another anonymous call in which the caller stated that SMITH would be sent to Wright Field on Tuesday and that Saturday one of the men who found fragments of the flying disc was to be flown to Alaska. LANTZ stated that in view of the fact that the information as to the Intelligence officers on the B-25 had been as furnished by the anonymous caller, had subsequently been verified by the Army, the story was released that the B-25 was carrying disc fragments returning to Hamilton Field, California and furnishing the inference that the plane had been sabotaged or shot down. LANTZ stated that about 8:00 P. M. on Sunday, August 3, he contacted Captain EMIL SMITH at his home, 3027 West Laurelhurst Drive, Seattle at which time SMITH stated he had not given any story out to the Post Intelligencer at Seattle; stated that he had gotten a telegram to call a number in Boise and when he called and found out it was the Boise Statesman, he had hung up. He stated that the Boise Statesman then contacted him, at which time he admitted he had seen the disc fragments, but that he did not take any of them. This time SMITH informed LANTZ that he had been with Major GEORGE SANDERS, Public Relations Officer from McChord Field, all afternoon until about 3:45 P. M. SMITH informed LANTZ that he had told the Army authorities everything that he and ARNOLD knew about the flying disc fragments story from the time that KENNETH ARNOLD left Boise, Idaho and he had left Seattle, Washington. This time SMITH admitted that there were some of the supposed disc fragments in ARNOLD's room at the Winthrop Hotel and that CRISMAN and DAHL had been in the room Thursday afternoon. On Monday PAUL LANTZ stated that he called HAROLD DAHL who advised that if this were not used in the paper, he and FRED

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CRISMAN would see him after lunch. LANTZ stated that about noon DAHL and CRISMAN contacted him at which time DAHL stated that he and his son had been exploring a gravel pit on Maury Island and found some strange rock formations. He stated they picked up some of these samples and that FRED CRISMAN later saw them and they went back over to Maury Island at which time additional samples were obtained and that CRISMAN sent these to a friend of his at the University of Chicago to have analyzed. They stated that they received a report and that apparently this friend had asked a newspaperman to find out where the rock formations were obtained. CRISMAN and DAHL told LANTZ that sometime after the first flying disc story had appeared, they received a telegram from Trans-Ocean Press from Chicago wanting information on the flying disc fragments. FRED CRISMAN stated that they had at no time indicated the rock formations were a part of a flying disc and that Captain ~~EMIL~~ SMITH and KENNETH ARNOLD were not interested in the rock formations and they denied giving them to SMITH and ARNOLD.

TED MORRELLO, a United Press Wireman, Tacoma, Washington furnished substantially the same information that was obtained from PAUL LANTZ, the Tacoma Times reporter, regarding the anonymous phone calls which he had received. He stated further that the first call he received was on Friday, August 1, at around 5:30 P. M. At this time the caller stated that the B-25 which crashed at Kelso, Washington was carrying disc fragments and that the two officers killed were Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN, officers with Army A-2 Intelligence at Hamilton Field and that the fragments were top secret material. He stated the caller indicated that when the Army released the names of the dead officers it would verify that the information he was furnishing was correct. MORRELLO stated that the second call he received at approximately 6:45 P. M. Friday, August 1 at which time the caller stated that the B-25 was definitely shot down and that if he contacted Army Intelligence A-2, the man in charge would not deny it. MORRELLO stated he thought the man said to contact Colonel GUYS, but it was found out it was Colonel GREGG who was in charge of Army Intelligence A-2. The caller further stated that the Sheriff's Office had been kept away from the crash and that no civilians had been allowed near the plane. MORRELLO stated the third call he received at 5:30 P. M., August 2, and that this time the caller stated that one of the men who had been conferring with Captain SMITH and KENNETH ARNOLD was taken to Alaska that day. The caller further stated that the B-25 was shot down from the air with a 20 m.m. cannon; that the Marine plane found recently on Mt. Rainier had also been shot down; that Captain SMITH would be taken to Wright Field Tuesday morning and that a United Airlines pilot by the name of MORGAN flew with Captain SMITH when they were shot at over Montana. The caller stated he was leaving for San Francisco and would be back Tuesday.

PAUL LANTZ and TED MORRELLO both stated that they had made very little effort to question the anonymous caller to obtain his identity as they felt it was useless and that if they started questioning him he would

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refuse to furnish any further information.

On August 5, 1947 Special Agent DAVID A. MacCULLOCH was contacted in the resident agency office, Tacoma, Washington by FRED CRISMAN. At this time CRISMAN asked if the Seattle Office was investigating the crash of the B-25 and he was informed that no investigation was being conducted by the Seattle Office. CRISMAN at this time related in a rambling story that he had picked up some strange rock formations which he had forwarded to a friend of his in the University of Chicago to have analyzed and that later, in some manner unknown to him, these rock formations had been reported as being fragments of a flying disc.

On August 7, 1947 FRED CRISMAN and HAROLD DAHL were interviewed at the Tacoma resident agency office. Both DAHL and CRISMAN at first denied any knowledge of how the rock formations which they had picked up to have analyzed became connected with the flying disc stories. Both denied making any statement to anyone that these rock formations were portions of a disc fragment. It was apparent from the start of the interview that DAHL and CRISMAN were not telling their complete and true connection with the flying disc story. They refused to give any definite information as to what they said or had done which caused them to become involved in a flying disc story, but gave evasive answers and repeatedly stated that they had nothing to do with it and were at a loss to understand how they became connected with the flying disc story. After considerable questioning, they stated that in the early part of June they sent to RAY PALMER of the Ziff-Davis Publishing Company which published the Fantasy magazine in Chicago and the Venture magazine in Evanston, Illinois, some rock formations which they had found on Maury Island. They stated they sent these formations, asking PALMER to have them analyzed. They stated that later PALMER wrote and asked for more samples, advising he had failed to analyze the samples. CRISMAN and DAHL stated they have never sent any additional samples and that the next they heard regarding the rock formations which they had sent PALMER was when he called HAROLD DAHL and asked if the rock formations could have come from a flying disc. DAHL stated he made some remark that they possibly could have come from a flying disc and that he immediately sat down and wrote a letter to PALMER, which was in the latter part of June in which he stated the material could have been portions of a flying disc. DAHL claimed that he thought he told PALMER over the phone something about being in his boat when he obtained these rock formations, but stated he could not recall what he had written to PALMER and claimed that he passed the whole thing off as a joke. CRISMAN and DAHL were questioned at length in an attempt to obtain specific information as to exactly what each one had done with regard to the rock formations. However, each stated that the only thing they had done was tell RAY PALMER the formations could have come from a flying disc in view of the fact it appeared "that's what he wanted them to say". No definite information could be obtained from either DAHL or CRISMAN as to what each specifically had done to start the flying disc story.

The signed statement which was obtained from CRISMAN and

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DAHL and in which they admitted the rock formations had no connection with any flying discs is being forwarded to the Bureau herewith. The statement contains no information of value and therefore is not being set forth herein.

Regarding the meeting which was held in the Winthrop Hotel on Thursday, July 31, CRISMAN and DAHL stated that they both met KENNETH ARNOLD there about 1:00 P. M. They stated that they all left ARNOLD's room about 3:00 P. M. and that CRISMAN took ARNOLD to Berry's Airport at Tacoma and ARNOLD flew his plane to Seattle where he picked up Captain EMIL SMITH. CRISMAN stated that he picked up ARNOLD and SMITH at Berry's Airport about 5:00 P. M. and that HAROLD DAHL came to ARNOLD's room about 7:00 P. M. CRISMAN stated that he and SMITH left about 8:30 P. M. when he drove SMITH to Seattle to get his car and that DAHL went home at this time. CRISMAN stated they returned about 11:30 P. M. at which time the Army Intelligence officers were in ARNOLD's room and that CRISMAN left about midnight. He stated that he returned to ARNOLD's room Friday afternoon for approximately one-half hour from 2:30 to 3:00 P. M., at which time ARNOLD and SMITH were still there and neither seemed to be able to recall if DAHL was in ARNOLD's room on Friday, August 1. The best that could be obtained from CRISMAN and DAHL as to what took place in ARNOLD's room was to the effect that most of the talk was about flying, that no one seemed very interested in the rock formations and that they had no connection as far as they knew with any flying disc. CRISMAN stated that KENNETH ARNOLD wanted to obtain pictures of the place where the rock formations were obtained and that the Army Intelligence officers did not appear to be interested in any manner whatever.

HAROLD DAHL operates the Commercial Lumber Company at 235 Millwater Avenue, Tacoma, Washington and FRED CRISMAN has recently been working with him buying timber. They have also been associated with the Harbor Patrol Association at Tacoma, Washington which furnishes patrol and police protection to parts of the harbor area which are not patrolled by Tacoma police or Sheriff's officers. FRED CRISMAN resides at 125 Woodland, Tacoma, Washington, Army serial number O-758-951. During the war he was a pilot and it is believed presently holds a Reserve Officer's commission as a Captain.

Regarding the B-25 which crashed, killing Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN of the 4th Air Force, Captain ROBERT G. BJORNING, A-2 Officer, Mc Chord Field, advised that this investigation of the crash reflected an exhaust stack had burned out on the left engine which in turn caught the left wing afire and that when the left wing broke off, it also broke off the tail. The plane at the time of the crash was carrying Captain DAVIDSON, Lieutenant BROWN, the hitch-hiker and a man as Crew Chief to take care of the airplane. The Crew Chief and the hitch-hiker parachuted to safety, but Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN were killed. He stated that their investigation reflected no indication of any sabotage whatever.

A check of the records of the Winthrop Hotel at Tacoma, Washington revealed that KENNETH ARNOLD, giving his address as Route #1, Mount-view Drive, Boise, Idaho rented room 502 from July 30 at 7:43 P. M. until

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August 3. A record of the phone calls made from room 502 during this period was made by Miss SARAH LANGBERG. This record reveals that KENNETH ARNOLD on July 31 called PALMER at AN-5200, Evanston, Illinois, collect. On the same date called Lieutenant BROWN at 5800 Hamilton Field, California, collect. ARNOLD also called O109-J in Boise, Idaho on July 31. On August 1 ARNOLD called LON-4936, Portland; PALMER at Dearborn 5200, Chicago; and SMITH called RODDY at Dearborn 2323 at Chicago. Both Chicago calls were collect. The remainder of the calls appear to be personal calls and are not being set out. A record of the phone calls made are being retained as an exhibit in the Seattle Office.

The following information was obtained by Special Agent PIERRE H. LEVEC in interview on August 12, 1947 with Captain EMIL J. SMITH, 3027 West Laurehurst Drive, United Airlines pilot: It should be noted that Captain SMITH has previously received publicity for having supposedly seen flying discs or similar objects on July 4, last while on a routine United Airlines flight out of Boise, Idaho in company with his co-pilot RALPH STEVENS, concerning this incident. Captain SMITH states that they took off from Boise, Idaho at 8:12 P. M. and headed Northwest at 300 degrees and while still climbing at 8,000 feet, co-pilot STEVENS called his attention to some objects in the sky ahead of them about ten degrees left which neither one could identify. SMITH states that he called a CAA radio operator at Ontario, Oregon and requested him to step outside his radio shack and see if he could see any of these objects overhead. The CAA radio operator replied in the negative.

Captain SMITH states that he first met KENNETH ARNOLD on July 5 in the offices of the Seattle Post Intelligencer where both were being interviewed concerning their sighting of flying discs. SMITH states that he next met ARNOLD about three weeks ago in Boise, Idaho at which time he, SMITH, was on another flight through Boise, Idaho and had a ten minute lay-over there. On this occasion ARNOLD was in company of Captain WILLIAM L. DAVIDSON and Lieutenant FRANK M. BROWN, Army Intelligence officers, and a reporter JOHNSON of the Boise Statesman. SMITH's next contact with ARNOLD was on Thursday, July 31, last when he received a telephone call from ARNOLD calling from Tacoma in the early afternoon at which time he asked SMITH to come over to Tacoma and join him as he was investigating a flying disc story for "someone back East" and some fragments were involved which SMITH might be interested in seeing. After some discussion SMITH agreed to join ARNOLD in Tacoma and ARNOLD told SMITH he would fly over and pick him up at Boeing Airport at 4:00 P. M. SMITH met ARNOLD at Boeing Field at about 4:00 P. M. and they flew to Berry's Airport at Tacoma, Washington where they were met by FRED CRISMAN. The three of them proceeded in CRISMAN's car to the Winthrop Hotel where ARNOLD was occupying room 502. ARNOLD ordered something to eat and during this time either ARNOLD or CRISMAN called a HAROLD DAHL and invited him up to the room. By this time SMITH states he had learned from ARNOLD that CRISMAN and DAHL were the participants in the latest flying disc story and SMITH states that he had no previous acquaintance with either of these men before meeting them in Tacoma on this date. While in the Hotel Room ARNOLD showed SMITH a letter which he had received from RAYMOND PALMER of the Venture Press of Chicago requesting that ARNOLD investigate

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the CRISMAN-DAHL story in Tacoma. ARNOLD informed SMITH at this time that after receiving this letter he had called PALMER by telephone in Chicago as a result of which call PALMER had forwarded him \$200.00 expense money for covering the story. Shortly thereafter, at about 7:30 P. M. HAROLD DAHL arrived at the Hotel room and the discussion began among the four men present as to what DAHL and CRISMAN had seen on Maury Island. DAHL professed reluctance to tell the story, claiming that several unfortunate incidents had occurred subsequent to his seeing the flying discs and he believed the entire incident had brought him bad luck. In this connection he stated that four or five days subsequent to his sighting the flying discs, a man called at his home and had a conversation with him the course of which DAHL was warned to forget all about everything he had seen on or near Maury Island. In addition to that, DAHL stated that his sixteen year old son had run away from home following the incident and had been picked up by the police somewhere in Montana. After some further discussion DAHL finally agreed to tell his story of the flying disc incident in front of SMITH after eliciting a promise from SMITH that he would not discuss the matter for at least two weeks. It should be noted that DAHL had previously told his story to ARNOLD and CRISMAN. At this point DAHL related the incident which has already been described and which he alleged had taken place on or about June 23 or 24. While relating the incident DAHL mentioned that he had taken pictures of the flying disc which he had seen but that the printed films were marred with white spots. When DAHL had concluded his story, CRISMAN related that he had gone the following day to Maury Island to verify what DAHL had told him concerning the fragments and had at this time picked up several fragments and taken them with him. At this time CRISMAN related that he also saw one of the flying discs hovering over the Island but that it had disappeared into a cloud. When DAHL and CRISMAN had finished telling their story ARNOLD told the group that he had earlier in that evening called Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN, Army Intelligence officers and that they were on their way to the Hotel room. At this point DAHL protested that he did not wish to tell his story before anyone else and he was advised by SMITH that if such was the case why didn't he just leave and not be there when they arrived. CRISMAN, DAHL and SMITH then left the room and went downstairs. DAHL departed alone. CRISMAN drove SMITH back to Boeing Field near Seattle where SMITH desired to pick up his own personal car, which he did. They then returned to the Hotel where they found Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN in room 502 with KENNETH ARNOLD. ARNOLD met them at the door and seemed excited, explaining to SMITH that Captain DAVIDSON had just drawn a reproduction of a freak disc which had supposedly been seen by a woman in Arizona and that this drawing was an exact reproduction of the flying disc which he, ARNOLD, had seen several weeks before, near Mt. Rainier. SMITH states that shortly after this CRISMAN seemed very anxious to tell his and DAHL's story to the Army officers. Before this was done, however, SMITH had a discussion with Lieutenant BROWN, informing him that they had promised DAHL not to release the story for two weeks and that if CRISMAN were allowed to tell the story at this time, BROWN and DAVIDSON must agree not to release the story for one month. Following this agreement, CRISMAN related DAHL's and his story of the flying discs over Maury

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Island to BROWN and DAVIDSON. Following this recitation, Lieutenant BROWN, in answer to a query from SMITH, said that he and Captain DAVIDSON were of the opinion that there might be some truth in the current flying disc stories, but that their immediate superiors (presumably A-2 at Hamilton Field) did not agree with them. BROWN and DAVIDSON then held a brief discussion as to whether they should return that same night to Hamilton Field and they decided that they would. All five of the men then went down to the lobby where BROWN detached himself from the group and entered a phone booth to call for a car from McChord Field. SMITH also left the group and met BROWN outside the phone booth where they held a short discussion relative to the credibility of CRISMAN and DAHL's story. BROWN indicated to SMITH that he should attempt to find out if the story was on the level and that BROWN would call him the following day regarding this matter. The group then proceeded to the front of the Hotel at which time CRISMAN brought his car to the front of the Hotel and took from his trunk a box of the alleged flying disc fragments picked up on Maury Island. He offered them to BROWN and DAVIDSON and when the Army car arrived from McChord Field the box of fragments was placed in the car with the officers. CRISMAN departed alone and ARNOLD and SMITH went in search of something to eat and later returned to the Hotel for the night.

On Friday morning, August 1, 1947, ARNOLD received a call from CRISMAN informing him that a B-25 had crashed during the night and it was believed to be the same plane which BROWN and DAVIDSON were flying. Following this call CRISMAN and DAHL came to the Hotel room and from the room CRISMAN again called McChord Field in an attempt to get information about the crash. SMITH took the phone from CRISMAN and spoke to a Colonel GREGG, identifying himself and asking if the B-25 which crashed was the only one which had taken off from McChord Field the previous night. GREGG told him that it was. Following this call ARNOLD called RAYMOND PALMER in Chicago and informed him of the previous night's conversations and the fact that DAVIDSON and BROWN were believed to have been killed. PALMER told ARNOLD to discontinue his investigation of the incident and that he, PALMER, was no longer interested. SMITH then took the phone from ARNOLD and asked PALMER if he could shed any light on the situation. SMITH was unable to say what PALMER's reply to CRISMAN was. Following these telephone discussions SMITH says that he called MAURICE RODDY whom he identifies as a personal friend of his and an aviation editor of the Chicago Times. SMITH states that he had previously made an agreement with RODDY in Chicago that should he ever run across any flying disc stories which showed promise of news value, that he would contact RODDY and this call was a result of that agreement. Shortly afterward, Colonel GREGG called him from McChord Field stating that Hamilton Field had requested that ARNOLD, SMITH, CRISMAN and DAHL submit their addresses to Hamilton Field for convenience of any Army investigation of the incident which may be forthcoming. After this call the four men went to a restaurant for lunch. During the course of this meal SMITH excused himself from the table and attempted to call SAC BOBBITT of the Portland Field Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation with whom he claims acquaintance. BOBBITT, however, was unavailable and SMITH was unable to complete the

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call. After returning to the Hotel room, a Tacoma Times reporter called attempting to gain information, but they did not give him any. Later, a Mr. MORRELLO of the United Press called and SMITH spoke to him on the telephone but refused to give out any information. SMITH further relates that while the four men were in the room at this time, an envelope was shoved under the door and that he retrieved it from the floor. SMITH states that the appearance of this envelope seemed to startle CRISMAN considerably and that in fact, CRISMAN turned white as a sheet until SMITH read the note unsigned which was a communication to the Hotel advising that a strike of Hotel employees was eminent and that guests should not expect room and telephone service much longer. Shortly after this incident DAHL and CRISMAN left the Hotel room after promising to take ARNOLD and SMITH to Maury Island the following morning, (Saturday). ARNOLD and SMITH then went out for dinner and on their return, SMITH found a note in the box requesting him to call a certain telephone number. He did this from the Hotel room and was answered by LANTZ, Tacoma Times reporter who requested SMITH to go out and call him from a pay station. SMITH complained and was informed by LANTZ that two anonymous telephone calls had been received by him that a discussion regarding flying discs had been taking place in room 502 at the Winthrop Hotel which involved Army Intelligence officers. From the information which LANTZ had received, SMITH was convinced that the anonymous caller must have been present at the discussion also, as LANTZ was seemingly in possession of pertinent remarks which had been made in the room. SMITH states that he did not give LANTZ any further information and that in conclusion of the call, he returned to the Hotel room and he and ARNOLD retired for the night.

On Saturday morning, August 2, 1947 SMITH received a telephone call from MAURICE RODDY in Chicago, but was unable to give him any further information. SMITH advised him, however, that he would call him back at 2:30 that afternoon. DAHL then called from a coffee shop nearby and ARNOLD and SMITH joined DAHL, CRISMAN and an unknown man in the Coffee Shop for breakfast. The unknown person was discussing some lumber business with DAHL and left after breakfast. On leaving the coffee shop, SMITH asked DAHL about the negatives of the photographs which he claimed to have taken of the flying discs. DAHL said the negatives were in the glove compartment of his car, but a search of the instant glove compartment was fruitless. The four then proceeded in CRISMAN's car to the dock where they were to embark for Maury Island. The boat, however, could not be started and the trip was postponed until later in the day. While at the dock, however, SMITH asked to be shown the damage to the boat which had allegedly occurred when the fragments showered down on Maury Island. CRISMAN pointed out what may have been repairs to the windshield and lights on the boat, but SMITH was not personally satisfied that these repairs were made as a result of any such incident. CRISMAN and DAHL then drove ARNOLD and SMITH back to the Hotel at approximately 10:45 A. M. and CRISMAN told them he would call them later on and that they would go to Maury Island. On returning to the Hotel, SMITH called LANTZ at the Tacoma Times as a result of which call he and ARNOLD met LANTZ at the Coffee Shop across the street from the

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Winthrop Hotel. SMITH stated that the purpose of this meeting was to try to find out something more about the anonymous phone calls which LANTZ had told him about. He and ARNOLD still refused to give out any further information regarding the Thursday evening conference to LANTZ and were informed by LANTZ that the Tacoma Times was afraid of being scooped on the story and was going to print something on that day. SMITH and ARNOLD then returned to the Hotel and shortly thereafter received a phone call from CRISMAN, but the call was cut off by the switchboard operator since it was not an emergency call. SMITH and ARNOLD then returned to the Hotel lobby where they found a telegram from DAHL asking them to call him at either Broadway or Proctor 7733, SMITH is not sure of the exchange. SMITH called this number, but DAHL was not there. SMITH states that he went then to the Western Union Telegraph Office and dispatched a collect telegram to MAURICE RODDY at the Chicago Times which contained a brief resume of the incidents which had occurred and which requested RODDY to wire SMITH a telephone number where RODDY could be reached after 6:00 P. M. SMITH states that he has never received an answer to that wire. Following this, SMITH states that he and ARNOLD that he and ARNOLD were sitting in the lobby of the Olympic Hotel when LANTZ entered and gave them each a copy of the latest edition of the Tacoma Times which contained a story hinting at sabotage in the crash of the Army B-25 which killed Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN. SMITH stated that he and ARNOLD continued to occupy seats in the Hotel lobby most of the afternoon inasmuch as they were unable to receive calls in the Hotel room due to the Hotel employees' strike. He relates that he received a call in the late afternoon from LANTZ advising him to call LANTZ that evening at 8:30 as LANTZ had further information regarding the anonymous calls. SMITH also received a telegram requesting that he call Boise 6000 which he did and found that it was JOHNSON, of the Boise Statesman. He refused to give JOHNSON any further information at this time. However, shortly thereafter, JOHNSON called from Boise and advised SMITH that the Army had released a story through Brigadier General SHRAM revealing the confidential assignment which BROWN and DAVIDSON had been engaged on. In view of this release, JOHNSON requested SMITH to answer one question for him which was, "Were they carrying any alleged disc fragments on the plane?" and SMITH answered, "Yes, they were." Following this SMITH called LANTZ as per his earlier request and was informed that MORRELLO of the United Press had received another anonymous phone call at which time "the voice" said that the Army B-25 carrying Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN had been shot down with 20 m.m. shells and that the Marine plane found on Mt. Rainier had also been shot down with 20 m.m. shells. The voice went on to state that SMITH would be called back to Wright Field on Tuesday. When MORRELLO asked why he was giving out this information the caller replied that it was not for the benefit of the newspapers, but that he was interested in seeing that the information got back to New Jersey. The voice also informed MORRELLO at this time that one of the two persons who had been talking to ARNOLD and SMITH had now left for Alaska. As a result of this latter bit of information SMITH decided to find out if CRISMAN or DAHL had left town. He located DAHL at the Sunset Theatre and DAHL came to the Hotel and met SMITH and ARNOLD. They were unable to locate CRISMAN by phone and DAHL left saying that he would try to find out where CRISMAN was and that he would call them tomorrow (Sunday) and that they would go out to Maury Island at that time. After DAHL left,

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SMITH and ARNOLD went to the Tacoma Times Office where a reporter met them and took them to MORRELLO in the United Press Office. There they read the latest press releases and had a discussion with MORRELLO regarding the anonymous phone calls. In the course of this discussion MORRELLO mentioned the name of Major GEORGE SANDERS, Public Relations Officer at McChord Field as being one of the officers interested in the investigation.

Following this discussion with MORRELLO, at which time SMITH states they still refused to divulge any further information, SMITH and ARNOLD returned to the Hotel for the night.

On Sunday morning, August 3, 1947, DAHL appeared at the Hotel room and told them that he had received a letter from CRISMAN which said in effect, "Take care of my business. I'll be out of town for three or four days." DAHL had a letter with him but he did not show it to SMITH or ARNOLD. The three men then drove to DAHL's secretary's house in South Tacoma and picked her up and the four of them then went to breakfast on the South Tacoma highway. While the four of them then went to breakfast SMITH excused himself and called Major SANDERS at McChord Field and arranged an appointment to meet him at the Hotel lobby at 11:00 A. M. They then took DAHL's secretary to her home where DAHL picked up a typewriter and then drove SMITH and ARNOLD back to the Hotel. They asked him if he was going to take them to Maury Island that day and he replied that he was not. He further stated that he was sick of the entire business and that if he was ever contacted by the Army or the authorities he was going to deny ever having seen anything and claim to be "the biggest liar that ever lived". Shortly after returning to the Hotel, SMITH met Major SANDERS in the lobby and they went in SMITH's car to a coffee shop in South Tacoma where SMITH proceeded to tell Major SANDERS the entire story of the incidents which had occurred in Tacoma regarding the CRISMAN and DAHL story since Thursday afternoon. Following this, SMITH took Major SANDERS back to the Hotel and introduced him to ARNOLD and suggested to ARNOLD that he also tell Major SANDERS the entire story of what had occurred. ARNOLD did so. Major SANDERS after looking at the fragments which were still in the room suggested that they drive out to the Smelter near Tacoma as he believed the slag at the Smelter would bear a distinct resemblance to these fragments. The three men then drove to the Smelter and the slag was noted to be definitely similar to the fragments which CRISMAN and DAHL had left in the Hotel room. They then returned to the Hotel room and Major SANDERS left them. After packing their bags, SMITH took ARNOLD to Berry's Airport where his plane was parked and then SMITH drove himself back to Seattle.

About an hour after his arrival in Seattle, which was approximately 7:30 P. M., LANTZ of the Tacoma Times appeared at SMITH's home with the newspaper containing the Associated Press story which had originated in Boise, Idaho in the Boise Statesman and which was written by JOHNSON following SMITH's admission to him that fragments had been carried by Lieutenant BROWN and Captain DAVIDSON on the fatal B-25 flight. SMITH at this time continued to refuse to give any statements for the Press and told LANTZ that he had placed

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all of his information in the hands of the Army. SMITH stated that a couple of days later he called Major SANDERS at McChord Field and asked him if there was any recent information concerning the incident. SMITH states that Major SANDERS informed him that CRISMAN had not yet been contacted, but that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was "setting a trap for him". SMITH further advises that on Friday, August 8, 1947, he appeared before Lawyer JOHN NOLAN at the County-City Building, Seattle and made a deposition of the facts relating to the incidents in Tacoma from Thursday afternoon, July 31, last until Sunday morning, August 3, last.

A copy of this deposition is now in possession of the writer and is being forwarded herewith to the Bureau. It should be noted that this deposition is in no way as complete as the statement taken by the writer above and any setting out of this deposition in this communication would be superfluous.

Copies of this communication are being sent to the Butte, Portland, San Francisco and Chicago Offices for their information only. Unless advised by the Bureau to the contrary, instant investigation is considered closed by this office.

For the information of the Bureau, Captain R. G. BJORNING, Intelligence Officer, McChord Field, Ft. Lewis, Washington advised at the weekly O.N.I.-S.I.D.-F.B.I. Intelligence conference that the Public Relations Officer at McChord Field had received a telephone call from an individual at Army Air Forces Headquarters at Washington, D. C., during which call the Public Relations Officer was requested to obtain a signed statement from DAHL and CRISMAN which could be published and thus publicly close the matter. Captain BJORNING further related that he had no additional information in this matter and that he did not handle it.

Very truly yours,

J. B. Wilcox
JACK B. WILCOX

Special Agent in Charge

ENCLOSURES
DAM:PHL:MEK
100-18945
CC - Butte
Portland
San Francisco
Chicago

Affidavit of EMIL J. SMITH

Re: FLYING DISCS SIGHTED BY FRED CRISMAN and HAROLD A. DAHL,
Tacoma, Washington
SM - X

62-83894-106

Signed statement of Fred L. Crisman and Harold A. Dahl

Re: FLYING DISCS SIGHTED BY FRED CRISMAN and HAROLD A. DAHL
Tacoma, Washington
SM - X

62-83894-106

August 8, 1947

HAROLD A. DAHL and FRED CRISMAN make the following foluntary statement to SA DAVID A. MAC CULLOCH of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In the early part of June 1947 we picked up some strange rock formations from a gravel pit on Maury Island, Washington. We sent a box (cigar) of these fragments to RAY PALMER of Venture Magazine at Evanston Illinois to have it analyzed.

Later PALMER wrote and asked for additional samples stating that he had failed to have them analyzed.

Around the later part of June a few days after the first disc stories started PALMER contacted us by phone. He told us not to tell the newspapers about the fragments and he would pay for an exclusive story if the fragments could be from a flying disc.

One of us told him the fragments could have been from a flying disc.

Just after our phone conversation HAROLD DAHL wrote a letter to RAY PALMER setting out some notes etc. regarding the fragments and indicating they could have come from flying discs.

The next thing we heard was about the first of July when we got a Trans Ocean Press telegram from Chicago asking ~~xxx~~ about these flying disc fragments. We told them to forget the entire matter.

The next we heard of these fragments was when we were called by KENNETH ARNOLD to meet with him in the Winthrop Hotel on July 31, 1947

We told him exactly how we had found the fragments and had forwarded them to PALMER to be analyzed.

The above is the entire and true story as regards our connection with the flying disc stories etc. which originated over the ore samples which we sent to be analyzed.

Fred A. Crisman
Harold Dahl

David A. Mac Culloch
F.B.I. Seattle 8/7/47

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
COUNTY OF KING) ss

J. E. SMITH, being first duly sworn, on oath, deposes and says:

This is a narrative statement as to what took place in Tacoma from Thursday, July 31 until Sunday, August 3.

Thursday I received a telephone call from Tacoma from a Kenneth Arnold. The gist of this conversation was that he thought it would be a good idea for me to come to Tacoma and listen to the story of two men whose names were Fred Crismon and Harold Dahl. This Kenneth Arnold I had met two times previous -- once on July 5 at the office of the P.I. in Seattle for a very brief time and the second time in Boise, Idaho when I was passing through on one of my trips.

In this conversation with Arnold on the phone, I made the statement that it would be impossible for me to go over to Tacoma due to my going out to Salt Lake City the next morning. He said that he would fly over from Tacoma and pick me up at Boeing Field. I agreed to this proposition from Arnold. At 4 o'clock I met Arnold at the Boeing Field and we flew back and landed at Barry's Airport. We were picked up at the airport by Fred Crismon, who drove the two of us into the Winthrop Hotel. We went up to Room 502 -- Crismon, Arnold and myself.

Fred Crismon put a telephone call into Harold Dahl and asked him would he come up to the room. A half hour later Harold Dahl made his appearance. At this time there were four men in the room -- Crismon, Dahl, Arnold, and myself. Mr. Arnold asked Mr. Dahl to relate his story as to what took place on June 24. Mr. Dahl was very hesitant about telling the story to me. Arnold and Mr. Crismon were already aware of the statements that Dahl had made previous. Mr. Dahl made the statement to me that if any statements he would make relative to his story, if I would keep it confidential for two weeks, that he felt definitely that I would want to forget the whole thing. I made the statement to Mr. Dahl that as far as I was concerned, I would keep any statements he made to me confidential for at least two weeks.

Here is Dahl's story: On June 24 (this date to be checked later) he was in a boat owned by Fred Crismon, who owns the Harbor Patrol in Tacoma. They -- Mr. Dahl, a Mr. Knight, and Mr. Dahl's son [] were cruising around Maury Island looking for logs that had broken away from booms. They were fairly close to shore of Maury Island when they saw four or five objects in the sky at an altitude of approximately 1500 feet. He said these objects were

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Page #2

100 feet in diameter, circular in shape, and it appeared that there was a hole in the center of each as he could see the sky through this hole. He also mentioned that on the inside of the circle or the hole, that portholes were visible. Their speed was negligible as they appeared to hover over a given spot. One of these objects appeared to be in trouble. Another object came over and appeared to make contact. After making this contact for approximately two minutes, it rose to its original position.

At this time the object that appeared to be in trouble seemed to throw a lot of debris from one of the portholes. These objects then disappeared from view. Some of this debris that landed broke in the wheelhouse of the boat, the spotlight, and the klexon. While this debris was falling, my boy and Mr. Knight got off the boat and hid under some logs. This debris that fell killed our dog and a sea gull. I asked Mr. Dahl what was done with the dog. He made the statement they threw the dog into the water.

This story was told to Mr. Crismon, who the next day went out to this Island to check on this story. He verified the fact of the damage to the boat, also to the fact that there appeared to be quite a few pieces of either rock or metal on the shore. Mr. Crismon also stated that while he was over there investigating on Maury Island, he also saw a disk. This disk was of the same shape and contour as the objects explained by Mr. Dahl.

At this point Mr. Arnold clarified for me as to the reasons he was investigating this story. Mr. Arnold stated that he received a letter from a Mr. Raymond Palmer, supposedly editor of the Venture Press, Evanston, Illinois. The gist of this letter was that Mr. Palmer received a letter from Mr. Dahl and Mr. Crismon, also a package of these fragments that were found on Maury Island. Mr. Palmer also made the statement in the letter that the Chicago University failed to analyze these fragments and that would Mr. Arnold please investigate the story. Mr. Arnold was sent a Western Union check for \$200.00 to take care of any expense that he might incur while making this investigation.

Mr. Arnold had made a telephone call to Hamilton Field to contact a Captain Davidson and a Lieutenant Brown, who were with A-2 Intelligence at Hamilton Field, asking them would they make a trip to Tacoma to also listen to this story of Dahl and Crismon. When Mr. Arnold acquainted me with the fact that he had made this phone call in front of Mr. Dahl, Mr. Dahl made the statement that he would not tell this story to anybody in Army Intelligence. I made the statement to Mr. Dahl that if he felt this way, that he should not be in the room when these two Intelligence officers arrived. Mr. Dahl thought this was an excellent idea.

Mr. Dahl, Mr. Crismon, and myself left the hotel room to go downstairs as Mr. Crismon wanted to get some metal that was in the back of his car that he had picked up on Maury Island, to bring back to the hotel room. Mr. Harold Dahl departed.

At this time I made the statement to Mr. Crismon that I should like to pick up my car in Seattle. Mr. Crismon drove me to Boeing Field, Seattle. After leaving me at Boeing Field, he drove back to Tacoma and I drove my own car back to Tacoma. After I had put my car in the garage at Tacoma, I went up to the Winthrop Hotel and in the room at that time was Mr. Arnold, Mr. Crismon, and Captain Davidson from Army Intelligence. ~~Lieutenant Brown was downstairs~~ getting sandwiches and coffee. When Lieut. Brown came back, the stories were again related and Lieut. Brown made a statement that all the facts of these stories would be held in strictest confidence until released by Mr. Dahl.

After Mr. Crismon had told all the facts, relating not only his own story but that of Mr. Dahl, he asked for the opinion of both officers as to what they thought. Lieut. Brown made the statement that he would like to obtain some of these fragments to take back to Hamilton Field.

At this time Capt. Davidson and Lieut. Brown were debating the thought as to whether to stay over night in Tacoma or leave for Hamilton Field immediately, as the B-25 they were flying was supposed to be at Hamilton Field the next day for the Air Show.

The five of us then left the hotel room and went down to the hotel lobby where Mr. Brown made a telephone call to McChord Field asking them to send a driver to pick up Capt. Davidson and himself. Lieut. Brown came up to me and made the statement that he and Capt. Davidson were going back to Hamilton Field and that he would get in touch with me tomorrow and if after I had seen the fragments on Maury Island, if I thought in my own mind that this was authentic, they would immediately leave Hamilton Field and return. I was to hold this statement by Lieut. Brown in the strictest of confidence from the other group of three (Dahl, Crismon, and Arnold).

We then went down to the street where Mr. Crismon drove his car up in front and took out a box of fragments and gave this box to Davidson and Brown. While waiting for the driver from McChord Field, Lieut. Brown and I discussed Pacific operations and things not pertaining to this mission. Capt. Davidson and Lieut. Brown departed at approximately 12:45 A.M. Mr. Arnold and I went back to our hotel room after having a midnight snack.

Friday the 1st: At approximately 8 o'clock in the morning, Mr. Crismon called up our hotel room and acquainted us with the fact that the B-25 had crashed. Also that he had called McChord Field and from information he received also verified the fact that the two men in the ship were Capt. Davidson and Lieut. Brown, plus a flight engineer and a hitch-hiker. This left both Mr. Arnold and myself in a very bad state of concern. Approximately an hour later Mr. Crismon and Mr. Dahl made their appearance in the hotel room. I still wasn't sure that this was the same B-25 that the two Intelligence officers had left in last night. Mr. Crismon then again called McChord Field and talked to a Colonel Gregg and the fact was verified again that the two pilots were Davidson and Brown.

After an hour or so Mr. Crismon and Mr. Dahl left the hotel room with a plan in mind of the four of us meeting the next morning (Saturday) for breakfast and going out to Maury Island.

That evening (Friday) there was a message for me to call this particular telephone number that was on the message. I called this number and was asked by the party to please call them from a paystation. This party was a Mr. Lantz, a reporter on the Tacoma Times. He told me, "I most certainly am doing myself out of a good story but I thought you ought to know that somebody has been calling this paper and giving us a blow-by-blow description of all that has taken place in your room since you arrived." To verify this, Mr. Lantz repeated back to me discussions that I felt had only been taking place in our room.

Mr. Lantz also made the statement that there was a leak either from the switchboard operator or our room had been tapped. I asked Mr. Lantz why he was tipping us off with this information. He made the statement that he didn't mind doing this if in return that any information that I may let out would be given to him. After this conversation with Mr. Lantz I went back to our room and told Mr. Arnold what took place on the telephone.

Saturday morning: Mr. Arnold and I met Mr. Dahl and Fred Crismon for breakfast. We then drove out to the boat to go to the island. The boat was unserviceable at the time so we went back to the hotel. Mr. Crismon said that he would call later on in the day and let us know when the boat would be repaired. That was the last time I saw Mr. Crismon.

Approximately 11 o'clock Saturday morning Mr. Crismon phoned me and made the statement it would be impossible for him to keep this appointment with me. We were cut off by the switchboard operator as this was classified as not an emergency call. The reason we were cut off was due to a strike in all the Tacoma hotels.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

65-477

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: August 27, 1947
73
R H Fletcher

FROM : SAC, Butte

SUBJECT: FLYING DISCS SIGHTED BY
FRED CHRISMAN AND HAROLD A. DAHL,
TACOMA, WASHINGTON
SECURITY MATTER - X

Re Seattle tels August 7, 1947, and August 12, 1947, in the above captioned matter.

KENNETH ARNOLD, Route 1, Mountain View Drive, Boise, Idaho, was interviewed at the Boise Resident Agency, Boise, Idaho, by SA JOSEPH E. JETTE on August 19, 1947. Mr. ARNOLD advised that he received a letter from RAYMOND A. PALMER, Editor, Venture Press, Evanston, Illinois, dated June 26, 1947, in which Mr. PALMER advised that he was interested in publishing an article in his magazine concerning the flying discs seen by Mr. ARNOLD near Mount Rainier on June 24, 1947, which letter is being enclosed to the Bureau. Mr. ARNOLD stated that he did not give much thought to PALMER's letter until PALMER wrote him again and informed him that FRED CHRISMAN and HAROLD A. DAHL of Tacoma, Washington, had sent him fragments of a flying disc and that he would like him (ARNOLD) to go to Tacoma, Washington, and contact CHRISMAN and DAHL to find out if there was any truth in their story about the disc fragments. He stated that he did not answer PALMER's letter, but inquired of several friends for their opinion in the matter, and that they all told him if PALMER desired to pay his expenses to go to Tacoma, Washington, and look into this matter, that they did not see where he had anything to lose. He informed that he gave a talk at the Boise Ad Club on July 25, 1947, about the flying discs he had seen, and also of the request contained in PALMER's letter to go to Tacoma to investigate additional information regarding the finding of disc fragments by CHRISMAN and DAHL.

ARNOLD advised that following his talk, he was approached by a person who said he knew both CHRISMAN and DAHL and that they were very reliable individuals. He stated that after thinking it over, he called PALMER by telephone and at which time he informed PALMER that he would contact CHRISMAN and DAHL and investigate the matter regarding the disc fragments, if PALMER would send him \$200.00 expense money. He also advised that he received \$200.00 expense money from PALMER via Western Union the next morning. He informed that he left for Tacoma, Washington, via his personal plane on July 30, 1947. Upon arriving at Pendleton, Oregon, he told his story to ED LEACH, CAA Inspector from Portland, Oregon, who advised him to go ahead with his investigation.

He stated that he landed at Barry's Airport in Tacoma and obtained a room at the Winthrop Hotel. He informed that he then called DAHLSEY telephone to make arrangements to talk to him regarding the disc fragments. He advised that DAHL insisted on coming to the hotel room immediately. Upon arriving at Mr. ARNOLD's hotel room, DAHL stated that he wanted to forget about the discs as too many things had been happening to him, and advised Mr. ARNOLD to return home and forget about the discs. Mr. ARNOLD stated that he informed DAHL that he wanted to obtain all

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Director, FBI

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Re: Flying Discs - Tacoma, Wn.

of the information available regarding the disc fragments and that he understood that DAHL had told the press about the disc fragments, stating there was nothing to the story and that it was a phoney. DAHL immediately replied that his story was not false or phoney, but that what he had seen and what had happened to him was so unusual and fantastic that he wanted to forget about the disc fragments. DAHL then agreed to tell Mr. ARNOLD the following story, providing his name and the Harbor Patrols would be left out:

DAHL stated that his dog had been killed and his boy hurt and that the wheel mount on his harbor patrol boat had been struck by disc fragments, and that about twenty ton of this material had fallen on the beach at Mauri Island, and into the bay, and that a day after this incident, a man about forty years of age had contacted him and told him, "I know what you saw at Mauri Island and I'm telling you in a nice way to forget about it and keep your mouth shut." DAHL stated that he had obtained a large number of the fragments and had taken them home, but that FRED TRICKMAN, his superior officer, had told him to send the fragments to RAYMOND PALMER at Chicago; that PALMER would analyze the specimens free of charge. DAHL continued stating that on the afternoon of June 21, 1947, he was on patrol with his boy, dog, and two seamen near a cove on the east side of Mauri Island. He stated that he looked up through the windshield of the boat and at a height of about 1,000 feet, he saw six round circular grey objects that looked like large inner tubes slightly squashed. These objects appeared to be about 100 feet across and in the center was a hole about twenty-five feet. DAHL said he assumed they were some type of a balloon. The object in the center was lower than the rest of the other objects, and the other objects were circling around it. The object in the center seemed to be descending while the others followed. As the objects descended he saw port holes around the inside of the object and what appeared to be windows. He stated that the object in the center descended to about 500 feet, and that suddenly one of the circling objects came down and touched the object in the center and remained in this position for a few minutes, while the other objects continued to circle above. The object which had descended and touched the object in the center and which was lower, then rose and took its place with the other objects.

All of the objects then started to rise and what appeared to be newspapers came out of the center of the object in the middle of the circling object. Then the sky seemed to rain lava, the lava coming from the object in the center and DAHL headed the boat for shore. He stated that the lava coming from the object in the center appeared to be a white metal, and as it fell into the water, clouds of steam rose from the water. He stated that some of the lava landed on the beach. He also stated that his dog was killed and also a sea gull in addition to his boy being hurt by the falling lava. Mr. ARNOLD continued stating that DAHL had said that he had taken pictures of the object and that if Mr. ARNOLD wanted them, he could have the negatives. DAHL took Mr. ARNOLD to the home of his secretary that evening and showed him some of the disc fragments he had picked up, which were smooth on one side and rough on the other, according to Mr. ARNOLD.

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Mr. ARNOLD stated he received a telephone call from the press upon returning to his hotel room, and that the press wanted to know about the flying disc fragments, and he told them that he was not talking until he had proved it. He stated he did not know how the press ever knew he was in Tacoma or had seen DAHL.

Mr. ARNOLD informed that at 9:30 A.M. the next morning, July 31, 1947, DAHL and CHRISMAN appeared at his hotel room and DAHL again asked him to go home and forget about the discs, that his story was not false, but that he had had enough trouble. DAHL said that his boy had been missed one morning and had been found at Lust, Montana, waiting on tables in a cafe; that he did not know how he had got there and that too many things were happening. Mr. ARNOLD stated that when DAHL and CHRISMAN came to his hotel room, they had an armful of fragments, and that CHRISMAN had then informed about how he had seen an object resembling those seen by DAHL. CHRISMAN stated he had taken the patrol boat on July 23, 1947, and had gone to Mauri Island and had found the beach littered with lava. CHRISMAN stated he had looked up and had seen a balloon-like object with port holes and windows, which had disappeared into a large cloud. ARNOLD stated that he asked DAHL again to see the pictures of the objects; that DAHL had again agreed to show them to him. Mr. ARNOLD informed that he had then asked DAHL and CHRISMAN if it would be all right for him to call a friend, Captain SMITH, who had also seen some flying discs and let him see the fragments and hear Mr. DAHL's story. DAHL dissented, however, CHRISMAN readily agreed. He also stated that he had placed a call to Lieutenant BROWN and Captain DAVIDSON, Army intelligence officers at Hamilton Field, and had asked them to come to his hotel, as they had previously instructed him to report to them anything of an unusual nature or of interest regarding the flying discs.

He stated he flew to Seattle and got Captain SMITH, and that Lieutenant BROWN and Captain DAVIDSON had come to his room about 4:00 P.M. Mr. ARNOLD advised that he had asked Lieutenant BROWN just what he had found out regarding the discs, and Lieutenant BROWN had confidentially informed him that they had obtained a picture of a disc, which appeared to be authentic, which picture was taken by a man in Phoenix, Arizona. The picture, according to Lieutenant BROWN, was of a circular object with a hole in the center, and of another object that looked like a flying wing. He stated that when Lieutenant BROWN told him this that he immediately thought of the object seen by DAHL. He stated that after hearing DAHL's story, Lieutenant BROWN and Captain DAVIDSON's attitude had changed immediately, and that they appeared disinterested. It was then suggested that they all go to Mauri Island and look for the disc fragments. Lieutenant BROWN and Captain DAVIDSON stated that they had to return to Hamilton Field immediately. Mr. ARNOLD stated that Lieutenant BROWN and Captain DAVIDSON were very careful to gather up all of the fragments which had been brought to the room by DAHL and CHRISMAN.

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He stated that the next morning he received a call from CHRISMAN, who told him that Lieutenant BROWN and Captain DAVIDSON had been killed in a B-25 crash. He stated he does not know how CHRISMAN knew who had been in the plane before anyone else. He also stated that during the above conference numerous telephone calls were received from the press, wanting to know about the conference. He stated that someone kept tipping the press off as to what was going on and what was being said daily verbatim. He informed that PAUL LAND and MORELLO, United Press men at Tacoma, appeared to know all that took place during the conference, and even knew of the crash of the B-25 and those aboard, before the Army released this information. Mr. ARNOLD informed that when he received news of the crash, that he and Captain SMITH fully expected to be contacted by Army Intelligence, as they were the last people with Lieutenant BROWN and Captain DAVIDSON, however, they were never contacted.

He further stated that he and Captain SMITH went down to the United Press to see what the survivors of the crash had informed about the crash and that MORELLO had told them that the mysterious informant who had been calling had told him that the B-25 had not crashed, but had been shot down, also that MORELLO's Army informant had said that an observer at Kelso, Washington, had seen the plane throw out a landing flare after the two survivors had jumped from the plane, and that the plane had gone into a steep dive and dove into a hillside, and further that one engine had been on fire, but that the fire apparatus, protecting the engine, had failed to function. Mr. ARNOLD stated that DAHL then came to see him and Captain SMITH and told them to go home and forget about the discs, that such things as the B-25 crash had been happening to him all along.

Mr. ARNOLD stated that he then called Mr. PALMER at Chicago and told him that the deal was off and that if he wanted his \$200.00 back, he could have it; that two men had been killed and he was getting frightened of the whole thing. He stated that PALMER informed him that it was all right with him to keep the \$200.00, however, he would send him an additional check for the trouble he had put to. Mr. ARNOLD advised that previous to this telephone call, Captain SMITH had called his friend, MORRIS RODDY, of the Chicago Times and had told him that he did not have any faith in Army Intelligence and for RODDY to conduct an investigation on PALMER and get to the bottom of this disc fantasy. Mr. ARNOLD also advised that previous to the two above telephone calls, he had asked the press to investigate PALMER, as Army Intelligence had informed him that they could not find PALMER and knew nothing concerning him, and appeared not to be interested in PALMER, who seemed to know more about the flying discs than anyone else.

Mr. ARNOLD stated that he personally thinks that PALMER's business is a blind for something else and that DAHL and CHRISMAN will do anything that PALMER asks him to and will not talk unless PALMER tells him to. Mr. ARNOLD stated that he still wanted to get to the bottom of the disc fragment story so he and Captain SMITH had decided to go to Mauri Island on Sunday, August 3,

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1947, however, when CHRISMAN was approached in this regard, and they had gone to the boat house where CHRISMAN kept his boat, CHRISMAN could not seem to make the boat run, and after making some excuses that he had to return to his office, had stated that he would return in about an hour, and by that time his mechanic should have the boat repaired and they could all proceed to Mauri Island. Mr. ARNOLD informed that CHRISMAN never returned, and that they were unable to locate CHRISMAN at any of the telephone numbers he had given them.

They located DAHL in a movie, according to ARNOLD, and that DAHL, after making some efforts to locate CHRISMAN, had informed them that CHRISMAN had left town for a few days. He further informed that about this time the press contacted them and told them an informant had called and told them that CHRISMAN was on his way to Alaska in an Army plane.

Mr. ARNOLD advised that Captain SMITH had informed him that he had made an appointment with Major SANDERS at McCord Field and intended to tell Major SANDERS the complete story. During the afternoon, Captain SMITH and Major SANDERS came to the hotel room, according to ARNOLD, and some of the fragments that DAHL had brought to Mr. ARNOLD's room, following the conference, were shown to Major SANDERS. Upon viewing the fragments, Major SANDERS, according to Mr. ARNOLD, stated that they were nothing but slag from the copper mill, however, before Major SANDERS left, he gathered up every fragment in the room, according to Mr. ARNOLD, and took them with him. Mr. ARNOLD stated that he then left for Boise, Idaho.

Mr. ARNOLD produced a letter dated August 5, 1947, from PALMER in which PALMER attempts to encourage Mr. ARNOLD to continue his investigation into the flying discs. This letter is also being enclosed to the Bureau. Mr. ARNOLD also gave SA JETTE a copy of the article sent to Mr. PALMER and to the Commanding General, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, regarding his sighting of the nine discs near Mount Rainier on June 24, 1947. This article is also being enclosed to the Bureau. Mr. ARNOLD advised that he is vitally interested in this matter and knows that there must be something to the flying discs story. He stated that he will do everything in his power to help the Bureau in this matter. He also advised that he has no connection whatsoever with the Boise Statesman. He stated that the Boise Statesman has never paid him for any information he has given them. He informed that he sincerely believes that the Boise Statesman is attempting, as he is, to get to the bottom of the flying discs story. Mr. ARNOLD stated that he has told the above story to Army Intelligence and Major SANDERS and to no one else, with the exception of SA JETTE.

DAVE JOHNSON, Boise Statesman, Boise, Idaho, advised that the Boise Statesman has never paid Mr. ARNOLD for any news item he has given them, and has never approached him in this manner. He stated that the Boise Statesman is not attempting to push the flying discs story, but merely attempting to

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get to the bottom of the flying discs story as they sincerely believe there is someone who knows the story of the discs and that they actually exist, and that the Army, when approached for information, merely state that they know nothing concerning them. JOHNSON also informed that Lieutenant BROWN and Captain DAVIDSON had contacted him on July 20, 1947, at Boise, Idaho, regarding the discs and that is how he met them.

Unless advised th the contrary, no additional investigation is being conducted in this matter, and it is being considered as Referred Upon Completion to the Seattle Office.

JEJ:FPMc

Encs. (REGISTERED)

AIR MAIL

SPECIAL DELIVERY

cc - Seattle

VENTURE PRESS

305 STUDIO BUILDING
1718 SHERMAN AVENUE
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

August 5, 1947

Mr. Kenneth Arnold,
Box 387,
Boise, Idaho

Dear Mr. Arnold:

It seems that Mr. Maurice Roddy of the Chicago Times got the story from Mr. Smith, because he called me, told me he was running it. I knew only what you'd told me over the phone. Now, it seems the newspapers are pestering the very devil out of all you fellows. Crisman wired me for instructions, and I told him to say nothing to the newspapers, because he'll look silly if the army explains this as "meteors" or something like that.

I don't blame you for being alarmed, but I trust you've had no trouble in your flying since then. Let's get that straight--there's no horrible plot involved. It's probably true that the two men killed were just accidents. It could be true that it was not an accident, but I don't think there was any connection with the disks, or anything of that nature, nor is the material from Murray Island to blame.

Certainly I don't think you'd suffer from completing your report on your mission, and sending me your affidavit. Also, you'll have some money coming for that, and no sense to tossing that out of the window. It is unfortunate that the thing seemed so big you had to call in army intelligence, but it will take them a long time to proceed to the point I've reached in this disk mystery. You see, you aren't the first to see them. They've been known for nearly forty years, and I have ample proof of that. But your experience was the first real break toward a solution. I'd hate to have you drop the matter when all remaining to do is to file your report with me.

Crisman is willing to contribute his share. I hope you will too. This thing must not be hushed up and forgotten. It's much too important to the people of America, if not the world. And no censorship of the matter is legal. You needn't fear that angle. You certainly did a bang-up job of investigation, also you wrote one of the best articles about your June 24 experience I've ever seen. Please do the same on this last business. You own it to those two men who were killed.

I'd also like to know what developed on those pictures you took of those "disks", or whatever they were.